

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE DONAT SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS AND
HIGHER

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 24, 2015

H.B. No. 6824 An Act Concerning the State Budget For the Biennium Ending
June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Thereafter and Other Provisions
Related to Revenue

Christine Donat, appreciates the opportunity to submit
testimony concerning H.B. No. 6824-An Act Concerning the State Budget for the
Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Thereafter and Other
Provisions Related to Revenue. It is imperative that the funding for the CT AHEC Network
be restored (\$456K). Eastern AHEC, Inc. has provided me with the training
necessary to provide culturally competent care.

I currently attend UCONN where I work as a Collegiate

Health Service Corps contact and have for 1 semester with Eastern AHEC, Inc.

As a CHSC contact I have been able to gain hands on experience by providing health education
to medically underserved populations. I have never been part of a program that has continually
helped me grow both professionally and academically.

AHEC is based at the University of Connecticut Health Center and is implemented through four
regional centers located in the Willimantic, Hartford, Waterbury, and Bridgeport areas. The
four

centers enable the AHEC Program to carry out local programs with great efficiency. As a
statewide program, it functions locally to provide high quality, efficient, effective and flexible
services that meet local needs.

Fiscal support for AHEC is as diverse as its programs with state, federal, foundation and private support. Withdrawal of state support will jeopardize these other resources. In an era of healthcare transformation, maintaining the \$456,000 AHEC line item in the 2015-2017 state budget is critical to assure that the CT AHEC Network will be there to deliver its unique services and programs to our residents as it creates the diverse, well trained and cost effective interprofessional healthcare workforce that Connecticut requires and deserves.